



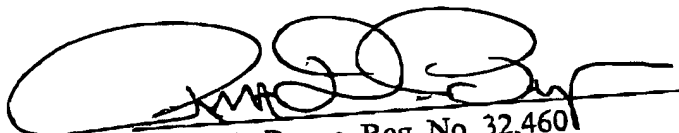
Applicant believes that the election of species requirement stated in the Office Action was intended to apply only to the claim groups that are directed to *methods*, not elected Group IV which is directed to implantable devices, as the claimed implantable devices are not specific to any of the enumerated species. On these grounds, Applicant requests that the election of species requirement be withdrawn with respect to elected claim group IV.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's counsel to discuss these issues if for any reason the Examiner does not agree with Applicant's traverse of the election of species requirement.

A one (1) month extension of time is requested pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136 and the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fee for such extension of time as well as any other fees properly deemed to be due from Deposit Account No. 50-0878.

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Date: September 2, 2003

  
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE FILING

I certify that this document is being transmitted to the United States Patent Office by facsimile at (703)305-3579 on September 2, 2003.

Dated: September 2, 2003

By:

  
Sara Bogdanov, Assistant